

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 127959
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 /057 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
-----030657Z 047532 /13

R 030029Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 127959

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 127959

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 2

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 2, 1977:

Q. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE U.S. HAS DECIDED AGAINST
SENDING A NUMBER OF MODERN AIRPLANES TO IRAN AND PAKISTAN.
CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A. AGAIN, WE ARE AWARE OF THOSE STORIES, BUT I HAVE NOT A
THING FOR YOU ON IT, NOTHING FOR YOU.

Q. ANOTHER SUBJECT? HAS THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION ANY
COMMENT TO MAKE ON THE DISPUTE NOW GOING ON BETWEEN
TUNISIA AND LIBYA CONCERNING THE DRILLING IN -- THE OFFSHORE
DRILLING IN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF TUNISIA?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 127959

A. YES, I HAVE GOT SOMETHING ON THAT. WHAT IS YOUR
SPECIFIC INTEREST?

Q. JUST TO KNOW WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ANY
PARTICULAR COMMENT, I MEAN, ANY STAND ON THE DISPUTE, AND
ANY ADVICE.

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SHIP ARRIVED ON STATION THERE ON
THE 26TH OF MAY AND HAS BEGUN DRILLING. AND FOR YOUR
INFORMATION, IT IS A SHIP OWNED BY READING AND BATES,
WHICH IS AN AMERICAN DRILLING FIRM HEADQUARTERED AT
HOUSTON AND TULSA. NOW, AS A MATTER OF STANDARD U.S.
POLICY, WE HAVE COUNSELLED READING AND BATES AGAINST
DRILLING IN DISPUTED WATERS. IN THIS CASE, WE ESPECIALLY
REGRET THE DECISION OF THE FIRM TO GO AS FAR AS THEY
HAVE, BECAUSE WE HAVE ADVISED OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS ALONG
THE SAME LINES THAT IT IS AGAINST SENDING SHIPS INTO THE
SAME DISPUTED WATERS ON BEHALF OF TUNISIA, AND THOSE FIRMS
HEEDED OUR ADVICE AND REFRAINED.

Q. THIS ONE IS DRILLING ON BEHALF OF LIBYA.

A. THAT IS RIGHT, I SAID ON BEHALF OF TUNISIA.

Q. WHAT DISPUTED WATERS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A. THESE ARE WATERS -- THIS IS A CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCE DISPUTED BY TUNISIA AND LIBYA, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

Q. AND WAS THE ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT SOLICITED OR UNSOLICITED?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT PRECISELY, BUT I THINK IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF EVERYONE THAT WE GO OUT AND ADVISE THESE FIRMS WHAT THE SITUATION IS, IN OUR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 127959

VIEW, AND TO ADVISE THEM AGAINST DRILLING IN DISPUTED WATERS.

Q. YOU CONFUSE ME. THE SHIP IS DRILLING ON BEHALF OF WHOM?

A. ON BEHALF OF LIBYA, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

Q. BUT THESE OTHER FIRMS THAT HEEDDED YOUR ADVICE WERE TO DO SO IN BEHALF OF TUNISIA.

A. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE HERE, YES. NOW, THERE IS SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION I COULD GIVE YOU. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS TWENTY-FIVE AMERICANS IN THE CREW OF THE SHIP.

Q. HOW MANY?

A. AT LEAST FOUR AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS TWENTY-FIVE. IT IS A MIXED CREW OF ABOUT EIGHTY PERSONS ALTOGETHER.

Q. DID YOU SAY THAT YOUR POLICY IS COUNSELLING AGAINST DRILLING IN DISPUTED WATERS? (LAUGHTER)

A. RIGHT.

Q. THIS LIBYAN-TUNISIAN THING, DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF FLAG THIS SHIP IS FLYING?

A. PANAMANIAN.

Q. HAS THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT TOLD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OF THEIR VIEWS ON THIS SHIP BEING THERE?

A. I THINK, CERTAINLY, THEY HAVE. I'M SURE--I DON'T HAVE IT FOR A FACT, BUT I'M SURE THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 127959

FEELINGS TO US ABOUT IT, YES, AS HAVE THE LIBYANS.

Q. HERE?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT IF YOU WANT THE ANSWER TO IT. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED THE SPOKESMAN IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE ABOVE BRIEFING:

Q. DID THE TUNISIANS COMMUNICATE THEIR VIEWS ON THE OIL DRILLING AND DISPUTED WATERS TO US HERE IN WASHINGTON DC OR WHERE?

A. THE TUNISIANS HAVE PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER IN WASHINGTON AND ALSO IN TUNIS. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS WAS CALLED IN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER

ON THE 28TH, AND AMBASSADOR HEDDA SAW ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON IN THE DEPARTMENT ON THE 27TH. AMBASSADOR HEDDA ALSO SAW UNDER SECRETARY HABIB THIS MORNING.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE127959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REUNDELAND:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770197-1346
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770692/aaaadcve.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30b34685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2285301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 2
TAGS: PFOR, US
To: ABU DHABI ALGIERS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30b34685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009